Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (previously presented) A method for writing data in a tape drive, the method comprising:

allocating a blank area for transpose writing on a magnetic tape;

writing a first plurality of data sets on the magnetic tape adjacent to the allocated blank area, wherein the tape drive maintains full operating speed during intervals between writing successive data sets, resulting in spaces between the data sets;

identifying a data timeout; and

performing, in response to the data timeout, a single repositioning of the tape and writing a transposed data block to the allocated blank area, wherein the transposed data block contains the same content as the first plurality of data sets.

2.   (original)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising allocating a second blank area for transpose writing adjacent to the transposed data block, wherein allocating the second blank area may include erasing.a portion of the first plurality of data sets.

3.   (original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the data written to both the first plurality of data sets and the transposed data block is stored in a data buffer.

4.   (original)   The method according to claim 3, wherein the size of the blank area allocated for transpose writing is determined by the size of the data buffer and a specified data transfer rate.

5.   (previously presented)   A tape drive, comprising:

a means for allocating a blank area for transpose writing on a magnetic tape;

a write head for writing a first plurality of data sets on the magnetic tape adjacent to the allocated blank area, wherein the tape drive maintains full operating speed during intervals between writing successive data sets, resulting in spaces between the data sets;

a means for identifying a data timeout; and

a means for performing, in response to the data timeout, a single repositioning of the tape and writing a transposed data block to the allocated blank area, wherein the transposed data block contains the same content as the first plurality of data sets.

6.   (original)   The tape drive according to claim 5, further comprising a means for allocating a second blank area for transpose writing adjacent to the transposed data block, wherein allocating the second blank area may include erasing a portion of the first plurality of data sets.

7.   (original)   The tape drive according to claim 5, wherein the data written to both the first plurality of data sets and the transposed data block is stored in a data buffer.

8.   (original)   The tape drive according to claim 7, wherein the size of the blank area allocated for transpose writing is determined to the size of the data buffer and a specified data transfer rate.

9.   (currently amended)   A computer readable medium encoded with a data structure ~~program product in a computer readable medium~~ for writing data in a tape drive, the computer readable medium ~~program product~~ comprising:

first instructions for allocating a blank area for transpose writing on a magnetic tape;

second instructions for writing a first plurality of data sets on the magnetic tape adjacent to the allocated blank area, wherein the tape drive maintains full operating speed during intervals between writing successive data sets, resulting in spaces between the data sets;

third instructions for identifying a data timeout; and

fourth instructions for performing, in response to the data timeout, a single repositioning of the tape and writing a transposed data block to the allocated blank area, wherein the transposed data block contains the same content as the first plurality of data sets.

10.   (currently amended)   The computer readable medium ~~program product~~ according to claim 9, further comprising fifth instructions for allocating a second blank area for transpose writing adjacent to the transposed data block, wherein allocating the second blank area may include erasing a portion of the first plurality of data sets.

11.   (currently amended)   The computer readable medium ~~program product~~ according to claim 9, wherein the data written to both the first plurality of data sets and the transposed data block is stored in a data buffer.

12.   (currently amended)   The computer readable medium ~~program product~~ according to claim 11, wherein the size of the blank area allocated for transpose writing is determined by the size of the data buffer and a specified data transfer rate.